



NEWS FROM NOAA

NATIONAL OCEANIC & ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION • US DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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EAU CLAIRE RESIDENT HERBERT F. TEICHMAN HONORED FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE VOLUNTEER OBSERVER PROGRAM

Recognizing almost 38 years of service to America, NOAA's National Weather Service has named Eau Claire, Mich. resident Herbert F. Teichman as a 2006 recipient of the agency's John Campanius Holm Award for outstanding service in the Cooperative Weather Observer Program. The award is the agency's second most prestigious, and only 25 are presented this year to cooperative weather observers from around the country.

"Cooperative observers are the bedrock of weather data collection and analysis," said retired Air Force Brig. Gen. David L. Johnson, director of NOAA's National Weather Service. "Satellites, high-speed computers, mathematical models and other technological breakthroughs have brought great benefits to the nation in terms of better forecasts and warnings. But without the century-long accumulation of accurate weather observations taken by volunteer observers, scientists could not begin to adequately describe the climate of the United States. We cannot thank Mr. Teichman enough for his years of service to America."

Michael A. Sabones, meteorologist-in-charge of the northern Indiana weather forecast office near Syracuse, will present the award to Teichman during a ceremony at Teichman's Tree-Mendus Fruit Farm orchard near Eau Claire, Mich. on September 26 at 10 a.m. Hydrometeorological Technician Earl Breon of the northern Indiana office nominated Teichman for the award.

The National Weather Service's Cooperative Weather Observer program has given scientists and researchers continuous observational data since the program's inception more than a century ago. Today, some 11,700 volunteer observers participate in the nationwide program to provide daily reports on temperature, precipitation and other weather factors such as snow depth, river levels and soil temperature.

Teichman became the observer at the Eau Claire site on Aug. 1, 1968, taking over from his father, William. William Teichman founded the site in 1923, reporting daily temperature, precipitation and snow data for the Weather Service. Adhering to his volunteer duties through such weather extremes as 30-inch snow days, temperatures well below zero, and sweltering drought conditions, Teichman is the latest volunteer in the family whose efforts provide a continuous 83-year climate record at Eau Claire.

Weather records retain their importance as time goes by. Long and continuous records provide an accurate picture of a locale's normal weather, and give climatologists and others a basis for predicting future trends. These data are invaluable for scientists studying floods, droughts and heat and cold waves. At the end of each month, observers mail their records to the National Climatic Data Center for publication in "Climatological Data" or "Hourly Precipitation Data."

The first extensive network of cooperative stations was set up in the 1890s as a result of an act of Congress that established the U.S. Weather Bureau. Many of the stations have even longer histories. John Campanius Holm's weather records, taken in what is now Wilmington, Del. without benefit of instruments in 1644 and 1645, were the earliest known recorded observations in the United States.

Many historic figures have also maintained weather records, including Benjamin Franklin, George Washington and Thomas Jefferson. Jefferson maintained an almost unbroken record of weather observations between 1776 and 1816, and Washington took weather observations just a few days before he died. The Jefferson and Holm awards are named for these weather observation pioneers.

In 2007 NOAA, an agency of the U.S. Commerce Department, celebrates 200 years of science and service to the nation. Starting with the establishment of the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey in 1807 by Thomas Jefferson much of America's scientific heritage is rooted in NOAA. The agency is dedicated to enhancing economic security and national safety through the prediction and research of weather and climate-related events and information service delivery for transportation, and by providing environmental stewardship of our nation's coastal and marine resources. Through the emerging Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS), NOAA is working with its federal partners, more than 60 countries and the European Commission to develop a global monitoring network that is as integrated as the planet it observes, predicts, and protects.

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On the Web:

NOAA: <http://www.noaa.gov>

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